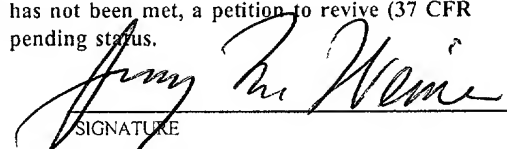


FORM PTO 1390 (REV. 12 2001)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER PAA-101-A	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371					
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/UA00/00022		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 13 JULY 2000		U.S. APPLICATION NO (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">10/031161</div>	
TITLE OF INVENTION APPLICATOR FOR USE IN REFLEXOTHERAPY					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US NIKOLAI GRIGORIEVICH LYAPKO					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information.					
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below 4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau) b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)) 10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included: 11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included 13. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter 2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information PTO-2038					

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 10/031161 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/UA00/00022		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER PAA-101-A	
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO... \$1040.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO... \$890.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO... \$740.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)... \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)... \$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
		\$ 890.	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).		\$ 130.	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	18- 20 =	0	x \$18.00
Independent claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$84.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) 11		+ \$280.00	\$ 280.
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =			\$ 1300.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status See 37 CFR 1.27 The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2		+	\$ 650.
SUBTOTAL =			\$
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f))			\$ 0.
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =			\$ 650.
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) \$40.00 per property +			\$ 0.
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =			\$ 650.
		Amount to be refunded:	\$ 0
		charged:	\$ 650.
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No _____ A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card WARNING: Information on this form may become public Credit card information should not be included on this form Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038			
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.			
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO Irving M. Weiner Weiner & Burt, P.C. P.O. Box 186 Harrisville, MI 48740			
		 SIGNATURE	
		Irving M. Weiner NAME	
		22168 REGISTRATION NUMBER	

7/pst

APPLICATOR FOR USE IN REFLEXOTHERAPY

Field of Invention

5 The present invention relates to devices used in physiotherapy with the aim of stimulating reflex points on the surface of a human body, and particularly to applicators, and may be used both at medical institutions and under home conditions for practicing reflexotherapy.

10 Background of the Invention

The closest device to the proposed applicator comprises an applicator having an elastic base member in the form of support and pressure elastic plates that are fastened together, and needles provided with thickened portions (heads) at one ends and sharpened portions at the opposite ends thereof, and passed through the support plate, the thickened portions of said needles being fixed between said plates and protruding above the surface of the support plate with sharpened portions thereof (SU-A-1551381).

Since the support and pressure plates are only fastened together, there exists an interface therebetween; said needles do not form an integral piece, and therefore are insufficiently rigidly fixed within the base member: they can get deepened into the base or protrude therefrom, or tilt around their axes due to the elastic nature of plates and separation of one plate from another, which fact causes insufficient stability of needles position during the use of the applicator. In addition, the need to provide two plates results in a substantial thickness of the base member, thereby resulting in insufficient elasticity thereof.

Brief Description of the Invention

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The main object of the present invention consists in improving the applicator by way of clamping the needles in the base member which is made solid in the direction of thickness thereof, thereby providing rigid fixation of needles

in the applicator base member and ensuring stability of needles position under any conditions of applicator use, as well as increasing elasticity of the base member.

The object set forth is achieved by that in an applicator comprising an elastic base member and needles, said needles having each an increased thickness at one end and a pointed tip at another end and being fixed in the base member with their portions having the increased thickness and with their portions having the pointed tip projecting from the base member, according to the invention, the elastic base member is made integral in the direction of its thickness and the needles are mounted with their portions having the increased thickness inside of the base member (1) in its plasticized state and squeezed in the process of moulding the integral base member during its setting.

The needles are mounted in the base member with thickened portions (heads) inside of said base member in plasticized state; here, the base material brought to the state of fluidity completely envelops the surface of each needle and tightly clamps said surface during the process of base material curing, i.e. in formation of an integral base member. As a result in the direction of the thickness of the base element there is no a surface which would be parallel to the surfaces of this base member and could divide the base element into two parts, i.e. there is no boundary inside of the base element in the direction of its thickness. Such arrangement provides a rigid fixation of needles in the base member and eliminates the possibility of either their deepening into the base or protruding therefrom or tilting about axes thereof; at the same time stability of needles position under any loads during the use of applicator being provided. Moreover, the use of an integral (in the direction of thickness) base member eliminates the need for two plates, thereby allowing the thickness of the base member to be reduced and its elasticity improved.

The external surface of the base member may be provided with lugs that envelop the needles.

Such arrangement provides further increase in the stability of needles position, particularly in the transverse direction to needles since it increases the length of needle clamping in the base member, while maintaining flexibility of applicator base member and limiting the deepening of needles into user's epidermis.

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The needles can be made tapered in the direction from thickened portion toward the sharpened portion thereof, thereby increasing the stability of their position, particularly in the direction perpendicular to the base member surface,

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since the wedged shape of needles prevents their protrusion from the base member.

In addition, said needles may be provided with thickened portions in the form of heads, thereby further increasing the stability of their position.

5 The needles may be also made in the form of nails or drawing-pins, thereby simplifying the process of applicator production and making this process cheaper.

The base member of the applicator may be made in the form of a rectangular plate.

10 Such embodiment of the applicator provides its use in the static mode, i.e. in the mode of permanent action on a predetermined area of the human body.

The base member may be also made in the form of a hollow cylindrical roller which can be either ~~solid~~ ^{integral} in the direction of circumference thereof or rolled up to cylindrical shape from a plate whose edges are butt-fastened together, the needles being mounted in the roller in such way that their sharpened portions
15 protrude from the roller, said roller being fastened to at least one drum mounted for rotation on an axle or fixed to a shaft.

The above embodiment of the applicator in the shape of a roller permits rolling the roller provided with the needles over a corresponding area of the human body, i.e. its use in the dynamic mode, thereby ensuring repeated short-time
20 actions of the needles on reflex points located within this area, which in turn increases the reflexotherapeutic effect, while fastening the needles in a ~~solid~~ ^{integral} roller provides stability of their position under any applicator loads during its use. Making the roller solid in the direction of circumference thereof, using the process of hot or cold placticization (on a mandrel), provides a uniform spiked surface of the
25 applicator and increases its durability, although making the roller production process more complicated. Making the roller by rolling-up the elastic base to a cylinder provides a simpler production process but results in the formation of a seam or a trace thereof between base material edges upon joining them together.

30 Here, the needles can be mounted on the roller along at least two spaced annular strips.

Such applicator provides the possibility of action of needles on required strip regions of the reflex area while preventing such action on other strip regions (e.g. the possibility of needles action on both sides of the spinal column while eliminating such action on the column itself).

The base member of the applicator can be made in the form of at least two hollow cylindrical rollers which can be either ^{integrated} ~~solid~~ in the direction of circumference thereof or rolled up to cylindrical shape from plates whose edges are butt-fastened together, the needles being mounted in the rollers in such way that their sharpened portions protrude outside from the rollers, said rollers being fastened at intervals to drums, the number of said drums being selected at least equal to the number of rollers, and said drums being mounted for rotation on an axle or fixed to a shaft.

Such applicator also provides the possibility of needles action on external strip regions of a reflex area while eliminating such action on other strip regions (e.g. the possibility of needles action on both sides of the spinal column while eliminating such action on the column itself). In addition, the possibility of independent rotation of the drums relative to the axle provides the possibility of changing the direction of rollers movement without scratching the user's skin.

Butt junction/junctions between plate edges can be made either along the cylinder element or inclined or complex-shaped.

Making butt/butts along the cylinder element provides the simplest process of roller production, while making such butt/butts inclined or complex-shaped increases the strength of butt joints between plate edges.

In addition, the base member of the applicator can be made as a unit-cast roller fixed on a shaft or mounted for rotation on an axle, the needles being mounted in the roller with their sharpened portions protruding outside.

Such embodiment of the applicator base member simplifies its design and manufacture due to elimination of the need in drums but reduces the base member elasticity, thereby resulting in increased probability of scratching user's skin.

Here, the needles may be mounted in the unit-cast roller along at least two spaced annular strips.

The above arrangement provides the possibility of action of needles on required strip regions of the reflex area while preventing such action on other strip regions (e.g. the possibility of needles action on both sides of the spinal column

while eliminating such action on the column itself); it however does not provide the possibility of changing the direction of rollers movement without scratching the user's skin since these two strips cannot rotate independently from one another.

5 Gaps between the above strips can be made in the form of grooves separating said strips.

The base member of the applicator can be made in the form of at least two unit-cast rollers fixed on a shaft or mounted for rotation on an axle in spaced relationship, the needles being mounted in the rollers with their sharpened portions protruding outside.

10 The axle with drums or rollers mounted thereon can have its end portions protruding beyond applicator end faces or can be provided with a holder with a handle, fixed to said axle, or with at least two brackets fixed on a support member.

The shaft with drums fixed thereon can have its end portions protruding beyond applicator end faces or can be provided with a holder with a handle, fixed to said shaft, or with at least two brackets fixed on a support member, said shaft being mounted in the holder or brackets for rotation.

Protrusion of the ends of the axle or shaft beyond applicator end faces permits the user to roll the roller/rollers while holding same by the protruding ends like a linen beater, thereby simplifying applicator design but limiting the options of its use for certain body areas by the user himself/herself: e.g., he/she cannot treat his/her own back. In addition, it would be difficult to provide a moderate pressure to the body. The holder provided with the handle simplifies the task of rolling since the operation is carried out with one hand; it also extends the opportunities of treating various body areas, and permits provision of a moderate pressure to the body. Mounting the shaft or axle on the brackets that are fixed on a support member allows the applicator to be used for foot soles. Mounting separate rollers on an axle provides their independent rotation and hence ensures the possibility of changing the direction of rollers movement without scratching the user's skin.

30 The base member of the applicator can be shaped in compliance with a body area to be subjected to reflexotherapy, and provided with coupling members designed to join edges thereof, while the needles can be fixed in the base member in such way that their sharpened portions protrude toward the middle portion of the base member, said needles being mounted either over the whole area or a portion of said base member.

The above embodiment of the base member allows static reflexotherapy of various body areas, e.g. foot soles and palms, to be carried out. With base member edges being separated, the applicator is put on a corresponding body area, following which the edges are engaged, thereby bringing the applicator to contact with the body area and deepening the needles thereinto without any scratching of skin. Placing needles on base member parts allows the required body area to be treated.

Here, the base member can be made as a body of revolution.

Making the base member in the form of a body of revolution, i.e. cylinder, cone, paraboloid etc., with edges provided with coupling members, as well as protrusion of needles in the direction of roller axis permit to envelop the base member around such parts of user's body or separate regions of these parts as shin, thigh, and forearm. In addition, such arrangement of the base member simplifies its manufacture.

Brief Description of Drawings

The invention is further described in more detail and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig.1 shows a cross-section of a fragment of the inventive applicator;

Fig.2 shows a fragment of the inventive applicator wherein protrusions on the base member envelop needle stems;

Fig.3 demonstrates a fragment of the inventive applicator wherein needles are made tapered in the direction toward the sharpened portions;

Fig.4 shows a fragment of the inventive applicator wherein needles are made tapered in the direction toward the sharpened portion and provided with heads on thickened ends;

Fig.5 demonstrates a fragment of the inventive applicator wherein needles are made in the form of drawing-pins;

Fig.6 shows a device for making the inventive applicator in the form of a plate;

Fig.7 demonstrates a side view of the inventive applicator in the form of a
5 hollow cylindrical roller;

Fig.8 shows a cross-section of the applicator of Fig.7;

10 Figs 9-10 demonstrate process charts for making the inventive applicator in the form of hollow roller that is made ^{integral} solid in the direction of circumference thereof;

Figs 11-13 show optional locations of edge butts of rollers made from plates;

15 Figs 14-15 demonstrate cross-sections of the inventive applicator with drums fixed on the shaft;

Fig.16 shows the inventive applicator with drums mounted on an axle provided with a holder;

20 Fig.17 demonstrates the inventive applicator with drums mounted on an axle provided with brackets fixed on a support;

Fig.18 shows a side view of the roller provided with needles arranged in two
25 strips;

Fig.19 demonstrates a side view of the inventive applicator with two rollers;

Fig.20 shows a side view of the inventive applicator with several rollers,
30 drums mounted on the axle, and a holder;

Fig.21 demonstrates a cross-section of the inventive applicator with several rollers, drums mounted on the axle, and brackets fixed on a support;

Fig.22 shows the inventive applicator with a unit-cast roller fixed on a shaft;

Fig.23 demonstrates a side view of the inventive applicator with a unit-cast roller provided with needles arranged in two strips;

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Fig.24 shows a side view of the applicator with a unit-cast roller mounted on an axle;

Fig.25 demonstrates a side view of the inventive applicator with four unit-cast rollers mounted on an axle;

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Fig.26 shows a cross-section of the inventive applicator made in the form of a body of revolution with sharpened portions of the needles directed inside;

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Fig.27 demonstrates a perspective view of the inventive applicator made in the form of a body of revolution with sharpened portions of the needles directed inside;

Fig.28 shows a cross-section of the inventive applicator made in the form of a sock with needles directed inside with sharpened portions thereof;

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Fig.29 demonstrates the inventive applicator in the form of a cap with needles directed inside with sharpened portions thereof.

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Preferred Embodiment of the Invention

Applicator (Fig.1) comprises base member 1, preferably being elastic (e.g. rubber), and needles 2 with thickened portions 3 (e.g. heads) at one ends and sharpened portions 4 at opposite ends, fixed in said base member 1, needles 2 being fixed in the base member 1 from the side of thickened portions 3 and protruding from surface 5 of base member 1 from the side of sharpened portions 4; needles 2 are clamped in base member 1 by means of hot or cold plasticization of said base member 1.

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In one embodiment of the invention, surface 5 of base member 1 is provided with lugs 6 (Fig.2) that envelop needles 2. Lugs 6 increase the length, L, of clamping needles 2 in base member 1, thereby improving stability of their position and limiting the deepening of needles into user's epidermis.

5 Needles 2 can be made wedge-shaped, tapered in the direction from thickened portion 3 toward sharpened portion 4 (Fig.3), i.e. having conical or pyramidal shape, thereby decreasing the possibility of their protrusion beyond surface 5 of base member 1. Here, said thickened portions 3 of needles 2 can be made in the form of heads (Fig.4).

10 Needles 2 can be also made in the form of nails (Fig.1) or drawing-pins (Fig.5).

The inventive applicator can be made as follows.

Base member 1 of applicator (Fig.6) is placed on support plate 7, following which they are placed together on support member 8 of the applicator-making device. Mould 9 provided with through openings 10 disposed in compliance with the arrangement of needles 2 in the applicator is placed on the top of base member 1. Needles 2 are inserted into openings 10 with thickened portions 3 (heads) thereof directed toward base member 1 of the applicator. Lid 11 of the applicator-making device is placed on mould 9 and connected by means of bolts 12 and nuts 13 with support member 8 of the applicator-making device. Base member 1 of the applicator is heated up to softening and by means of tightening nuts 13 on bolts 12, a pressure is developed from the side of lid 11 to needles 2; needles 2 are inserted with their thickened portions 3 into base member 1 to a preset depth. Following this, base member 1 is heated up to the hot plasticization temperature (particularly, to the temperature of vulcanization of rubber, provided that base member 1 is made of this material). Material of base member 1, being in the state of fluidity, completely envelops the surfaces of needles 2 and, upon cooling of base member 1, tightly clamps needles 2. Upon cooling down support member 8, nuts 13 are unscrewed from bolts 12, lid 11 is removed from support member 8, and base member 1 of applicator with needles 2 clamped therein is released from mould 9 and support member 8 of the applicator-making device. In this way it would be possible to make the inventive applicator.

The applicator of the invention operates as follows.

The applicator is placed in a certain place on a couch; the user is laid onto the applicator with a corresponding reflex area of his/her body. Needles 2 are deepened into the user's epidermis and affect reflex points, thereby providing the necessary effect of reflexotherapy. In addition, the applicator can be fixed to the user's body by means of bandages, belts, or corsets. Needles 2 that are tightly clamped in base member 1 of the applicator keep their position, i.e. do not either deepen into base member 1 or protrude therefrom during any bends of base member 1 and pressures acting on the applicator.

The applicator can be provided with the base member in the form of a hollow cylindrical roller 14 (Figs 7, 8) that is solid in the direction of circumference thereof, e.g. a unit-cast roller with needles 2 mounted in roller 14 in such arrangement that their sharpened portions 4 protrude outside, roller 14 being fixed on drums 15 mounted for rotation on axle 16 whose ends 17 protrude beyond end faces 10 of the applicator. Ends 17 can be provided with handles 19.

Roller 14 can be made e.g. as follows (see Figs 9, 10). The base member in the form of unit-cast roller 14 is mounted on mandrel 20. To mount needles 2 with sharpened portions 4 and head portions 3, the use is made of elastic mould 21 with solid flexible insert 22 abutting against sharpened portions 4 of needles 2, thereby ensuring equal deepening of all needles 2 into roller 14, and with openings (not shown) for needles 2, diameter of said openings slightly exceeding the diameter of needles 2. Mandrel 20 with roller 14 are placed on elastic mould 21 in which needles 2 have been already mounted, upon which said mandrel is heated up to softening of its material. Mould 21 is gradually rotated around roller 14; in so doing, needles 2 are deepened into the body of roller 14 to a depth set by position of insert 22 within the body of mould 21. Material of roller 14 envelops needles 2 and firmly clamps them within the body of roller 14 upon its curing in the process of cooling. After making roller 14 with needles 2 clamped therein, said roller is tightly mounted on drums 15 (Fig.8).

The roller can be also made with the use of a slightly simpler process, i.e. by rolling up a plate made from the base member material to a cylindrical shape, butt-joining the plate edges with the use of plasticization or by gluing or by lacing. Here, the butt junction between plate edges is made along cylinder element 23 (Fig.10) or inclined 24 (Fig.11) or complex-shaped 25 (Fig.12).

The applicator operates as follows.

While holding handles 19 of axle 16 and developing a required pressure to a corresponding area of the body, the user or some other person moves the applicator in reciprocal manner over this area. During this operation, roller 14 with drums 15 rotates around axle 16, deepening needles 2 into and removing them from the user's body, thereby eliminating scratching of user's skin by needles 2. Needles 2 repeatedly and successively affect various reflex points within said area of the user's body, i.e. the applicator operates in the dynamic mode.

Drums 15 (Fig.14) can be fixed on shaft 26, its ends 27 protruding beyond end faces 28 of roller 14.

Reciprocal motion of the applicator is carried out by reciprocal movements of palms over ends 27 of shaft 26.

Handles 29 (Fig.15) with stops 30 on handle 29 ends can be mounted for rotation on ends 27 of shaft 26.

While holding handles 29 of shaft 26 and developing a required pressure to a corresponding area of the body, the user or some other person moves the applicator in reciprocal manner over this area. During this operation, roller 14 with drums 15 and shaft 26 rotates relative to handles 29.

As shown in Fig.16, the inventive applicator can be made with the elastic base member in the form of a hollow cylindrical roller 14 with needles 2 fixed in the roller and protruding with sharpened portions thereof beyond the external surface of roller 14. Hollow cylindrical roller 14 is fixed on two drums 15 mounted for rotation on axle 30 having holder 32 with handle 33. Handle 33 consists of two halves fastened together by means of rivets or screws 34 for clamping the ends of holder 32 between the halves of handle 33. In this embodiment, the applicator operates as follows.

While holding handle 33 of holder 32 and developing a required pressure to the user's body, the user or some other person moves the applicator in reciprocal manner over this area, e.g. over the back. In so doing, roller 14 with drums 15 rotates about axle 30, deepening needles 2 into and removing them from the user's body, thereby eliminating scratching of user's skin by needles 2. Needles 2 repeatedly and successively affect various reflex points.

In another embodiment of the invention that can be used e.g. for reflexotherapy of foot soles (Fig.17), the applicator comprises roller 14 fixed on drums 15 that are mounted for rotation on axle 31. Brackets 35 fixed in support member 36 are made integral with axle 31.

5 The applicator of this type operates as follows.

The user puts his/her one or two soles on needles 2 of roller 14 and by making reciprocal movements, brings roller 14 together with drums 15 to reciprocal-rotational motion about axle 31.

10 Roller 14 of the applicator (Fig.18) can be made with needles 2 mounted on roller 14 in the form of at least two annular strips 37 separated by gaps 38.

The user can utilize the applicator for reflexotherapy of individual areas of the body.

15 According to another preferred embodiment of the invention, the applicator can comprise two rollers 39 (Fig.19) disposed with gap 40 on drums mounted for rotation on shaft 41 that is provided with holder 42 with handle 43, or can comprise several coaxial rollers 44 (Fig.20) of the same diameter, having needles 2 and axial gaps 45 between rollers 39. Rollers 39 are fixed on drums 15 that are mounted for rotation about axle 46 provided with holder 47 with handle 48.

20 Each of rollers 39 or 44 is made and fixed on drums 15 with the use of the method that has been previously described for one roller 14.

25 The applicator acts with needles 2 thereof on individual strips of a corresponding reflex area of the human body, leaving the strips between rollers 39 or 44 without action of needles 2. The applicator can be subsequently moved with rollers thereof to different strips, thereby ensuring the required sequence of action of applicator needles 2 on various strips of the reflex area. The applicator provides the possibility of varying the directions of movement of rollers 39 or 44 without scratching the user's skin since rollers 39 or 44 can rotate independently.

30 In another preferred embodiment of the invention, the applicator is provided with two rollers 49 as shown in Fig.21. The rollers are mounted with gap 50 on shaft 51 provided with brackets 52 that are fixed on support member 53. Such design is generally used in reflexotherapy of feet; with such arrangement, the user can move feet in opposite directions.

The base member of the applicator can be preferably made in the form of unit-cast roller 54 fixed on shaft 55 (Fig.22). The applicator of this type operates

similarly to the applicator shown in Fig.8 but differs in terms of simplified design and production process.

Needles 2 can be mounted on roller 56 (Fig.23) along at least two annular strips 57 with gap 58 therebetween. In this embodiment, the applicator operates similarly to the applicator shown in Fig.18 but also differs in terms of simplified design and production process.

Roller 59 of the applicator (Fig.24) can be preferably provided with strips 60 containing needles 2 and with gaps between strips 60 made in the form of grooves 61. Roller 59 is mounted for rotation by dividers 62 about axle 63. Dividers 62 are formed by indents 64. Sleeves 65 are fixed in the openings of dividers 62. Handles 66 are fixed at the ends of axle 63. The applicator operates similarly to the applicator shown in Fig.20 but differs in terms of simplified design and production process.

The base member of the applicator can be made in the form of several, e.g. four unit-cast rollers 67 (Fig.25) mounted for rotation on axle 68 with gaps 69 therebetween. Axle 68 is fixed on holder 69 provided with handle 70. In this embodiment, the applicator operates similarly to the applicator shown in Fig.20 but also differs in terms of simplified design and production process.

According to still another embodiment of the invention, the base member of the applicator can be shaped in compliance with the body area to be subjected to reflexotherapy, e.g. as a body of revolution, paraboloid 71 (Fig.26), having axle 72, and provided with coupling members, e.g. zip fastener (Fig.26) designed to join edges thereof, while needles 2 are mounted in the base member in such way that their sharpened portions 4 protrude toward the middle portion of the base member, i.e. axle thereof, needles 2 being mounted either over the whole area or a portion of said base member.

During operation of the applicator shown in Fig.27, zip fastener 73 is unzipped and both halves of paraboloid 71 are placed on a corresponding part of user's body, e.g. on shin. Then zip fastener 73 is zipped; in so doing, needles 2 are deepened into user's shin or a part thereof. After the session of reflexotherapy is over, zip fastener 73 is unzipped, and both halves of paraboloid 71 are removed from the shin.

In addition to the above-mentioned, for the purpose of reflexotherapy of a foot it is possible to use the applicator provided with base member 74 (Fig.28) matching the foot shape, needles 2 fixed in base member 74 and directed with sharpened portions 4 thereof inside, and zip fastener 75.

- 5 Finally, for the purpose of carrying out reflexotherapy of the upper portion of head, in addition to the above embodiments it is proposed to use the applicator having ball-shaped base member 75, needles 2 with sharpened portions 4 thereof directed to the middle of base member 75, and zip fastener 76.

Operation of the last two applicators is similar to that shown in Figs 26, 27

CLAIMS
(amended)

1. An applicator comprising an elastic base member (1) and needles (2), said
5 needles (2) having each an increased thickness (3) at one end and a pointed tip
(4) at another end and being fixed in the base member (1) with their portions
having the increased thickness (3) and with their portions having the pointed tip (4)
projecting from the base member (1), characterised in that the elastic base
member (1) is made integral in the direction of its thickness and the needles (2)
10 are mounted with their portions having the increased thickness (3) inside of the
base member (1) in its plasticized state and squeezed in the process of moulding
the integral base member (1) during its setting.

2. The applicator according to Claim 1, characterized in that the external
15 surface of the base member is provided with lugs (6) that envelop the needles (2).

3. The applicator according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the needles
(2) are made tapered in the direction from thickened portion (3) toward the
sharpened portion (4) thereof.

20 4. The applicator according to Claim 3, characterized in that the needles (2)
are made with thickened portions (3) in the form of heads.

5. The applicator according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the needles
25 (2) are made in the form of nails or drawing-pins.

6. The applicator according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that
the base member (1) is made in the form of a rectangular plate.

30 7. The applicator according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that
the base member is made in the form of a hollow cylindrical roller (14) which can
be either integral in the circumference direction thereof or rolled up to a
cylindrical shape from a plate whose edges are butt-fastened together, the
needles (2) being mounted in the roller (14) in such way that their sharpened

up to a cylindrical shape from a plate whose edges are butt-fastened together, the needles (2) being mounted in the roller (14) in such way that their sharpened portions protrude from the roller, said roller (14) being fixed on at least one drum (15) mounted for rotation on an axle (16,31) or fixed to a shaft (26).

8. The applicator according to Claim 7, characterized in that the needles (2) are mounted on the roller (14) along at least two spaced annular strips (37)

9. The applicator according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the base member (1) is made in the form of at least two hollow cylindrical rollers (39,44) which are integral in the direction of circumference thereof or rolled up to a cylindrical shape from plates whose edges are butt-fastened together, the needles (2) being mounted in the rollers (39,44) in such way that their sharpened portions protrude outside from the rollers, said rollers (39,44) being fastened at intervals (40,45) to drums (15), the number of said drums (15) being at least equal to the number of rollers (39,44), and said drums (15) being mounted for rotation on an axle (16,31,41,46) or fixed to a shaft (26).

10. The applicator according to any one of Claims 7 to 9, characterized in that the butt junction or butt junctions (23) between plate edges are made either along the cylinder element or inclined or complex-shaped.

11. The applicator according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the base member (1) of the applicator is made as a unit-cast roller (54) fixed on a shaft (55) or mounted for rotation on an axle, the needles (2) being mounted in the roller (54) with their sharpened portions protruding outside.

12. The applicator according to Claim 11, characterized in that the needles (2) are mounted in the unit-cast roller along at least two spaced annular strips (56).

13. The applicator according to Claim 12, characterized in that the gaps between the above strips are made in the form of grooves (61)

14. The applicator according to Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the base member (1) is made in the form of at least two unit-cast rollers (67) fixed on a shaft or mounted for rotation on an axle in spaced relationship, the needles being mounted in the rollers with their sharpened portions protruding outside.

15. The applicator according to any one of Claims 7 to 14, characterized in that the axle (16,31,46,51,63,68) with drums (15) or unit-cast roller (54,59) or rollers (39,44,49,67) mounted thereon has its end portions protruding beyond applicator end faces or is provided with a holder (32,42,47,69) with a handle (33,43, 48,70) fixed to said axle, or with at least two brackets (35,52) fixed on a support member (36,53).

16. The applicator according to any one of Claims 7 to 14, characterized in that the shaft (26) with drums (15) or unit-cast roller (14) or rollers fixed thereon has its end portions protruding beyond applicator end faces or is provided with a holder with a handle, fixed to said shaft, or with at least two brackets fixed on a support member, said shaft (26) being mounted in the holder or brackets for rotation.

17. The applicator according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the base member (71,74) of the applicator is shaped in compliance with a body area to be subjected to reflexotherapy, and provided with coupling members (75) designed to join edges thereof, while the needles (2) are fixed in the base member (71,74) with sharpened portions thereof protruding toward the middle portion of the base member, said needles being mounted either over the whole area or a portion of said base member (71,74)

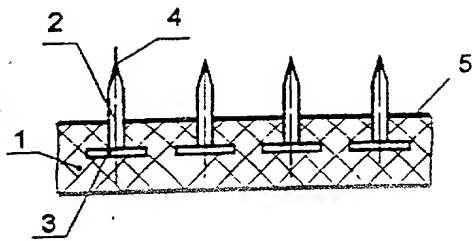
18. The applicator according to Claim 17, characterized in that the base member (71) is made in the form of a body of revolution.

ABSTRACT

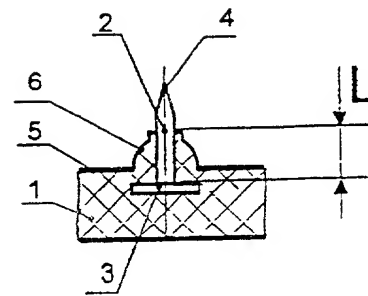
Applicator for Reflexotherapy

5 The invention may be used both at medical institutions or under home conditions for practicing reflexotherapy. The applicator comprises an elastic base member (1) and needles (2) fixed therein and provided with thickened portions (3) at one ends and sharpened portions (4) at the opposite ends, said needles (2) being fixed within the base member (1) with thickened portions (5) thereof and protruding outside with sharpened portions (4) thereof. The novel feature of the
10 applicator consists in that the elastic base member (1) is made solid in the direction of its thickness and consists of one layer or two layers integrally connected therebetween, and the needles (2) are mounted with their thickened portions (3) in the body of the base member (1) and clamped in said member to
15 form a solid base. Here, the external surface of the base member can be provided with lugs that envelop the needles, and the needles may be made tapered in the direction from thickened portion toward the sharpened portion thereof, i.e. wedge-shaped or in the form of nails or paper-pins. In addition, the elastic member (1) can be made in the form of one or several coaxial hollow cylindrical rollers
20 provided with gaps between their adjacent end faces; one roller is mounted on at least two drums, and each of coaxial rollers, on at least one drum, the roller or each of the rollers being made solid by the method of hot or cold plasticization or by rolling up the elastic base member to a cylinder/cylinders and butt-joining adjacent edges of cylinder/cylinders or portions thereof. The invention provides
25 rigid fastening of the needles (2) in the applicator base member (1) and hence stability of needles (2) position in the applicator base member under any applicator loads during its use, as well as possibility of both static and dynamic action of needles (2) on user's reflex areas, and a higher elasticity of the base member (1).

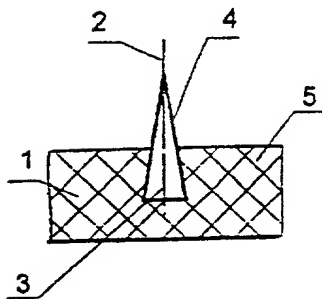
30 Fig.1.



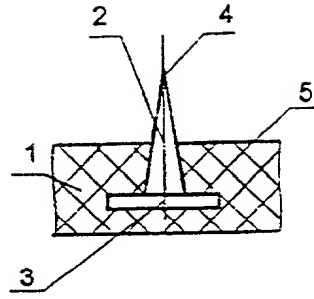
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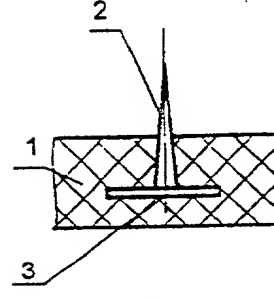
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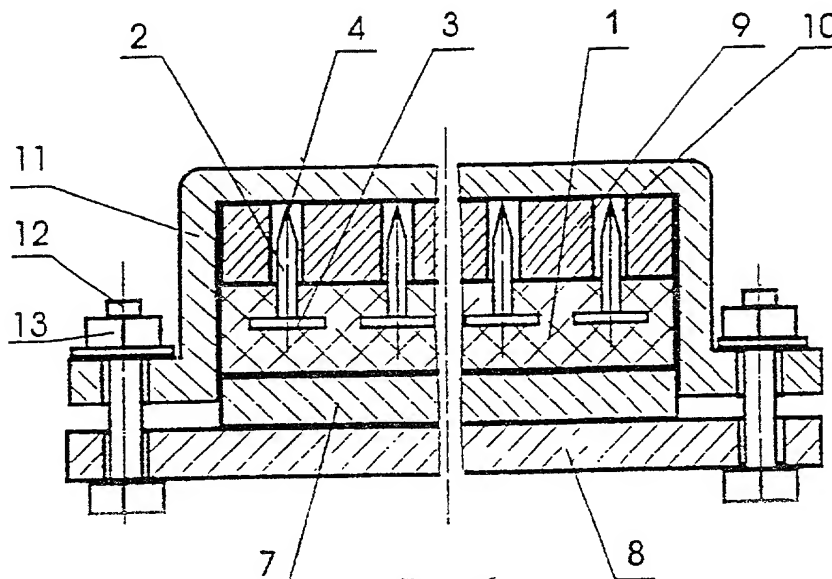
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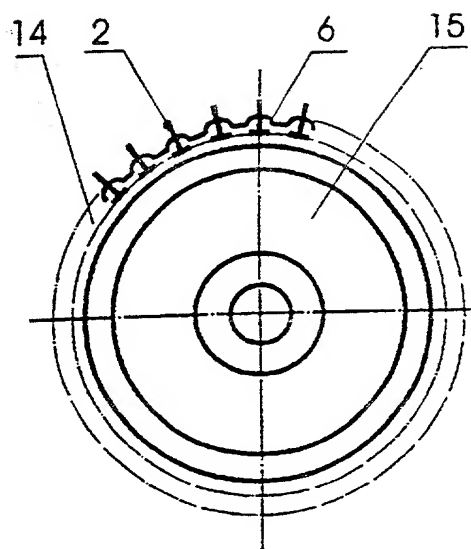
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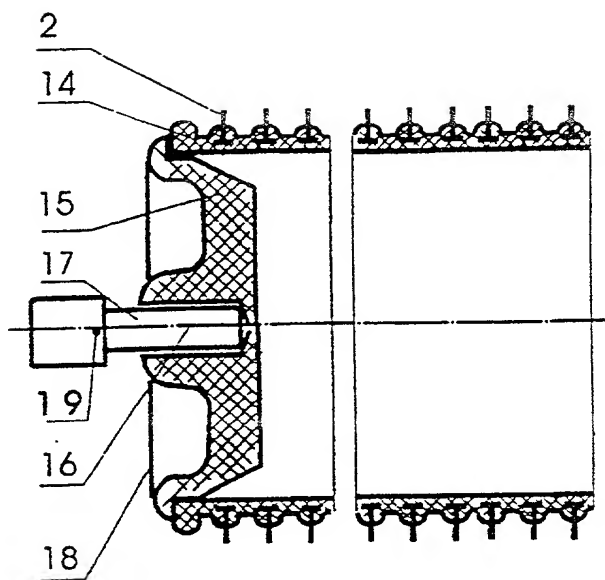
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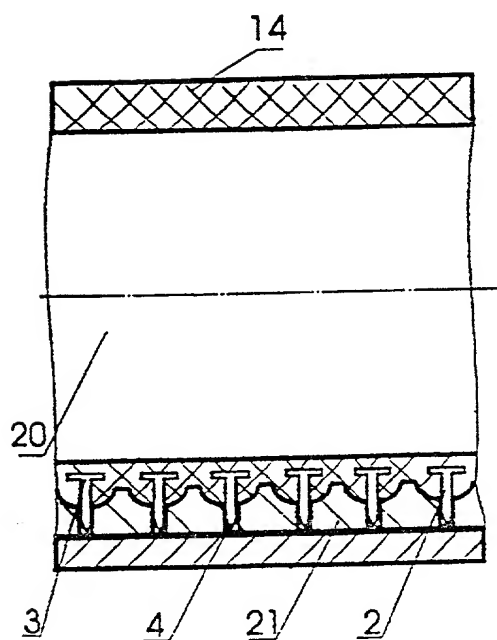
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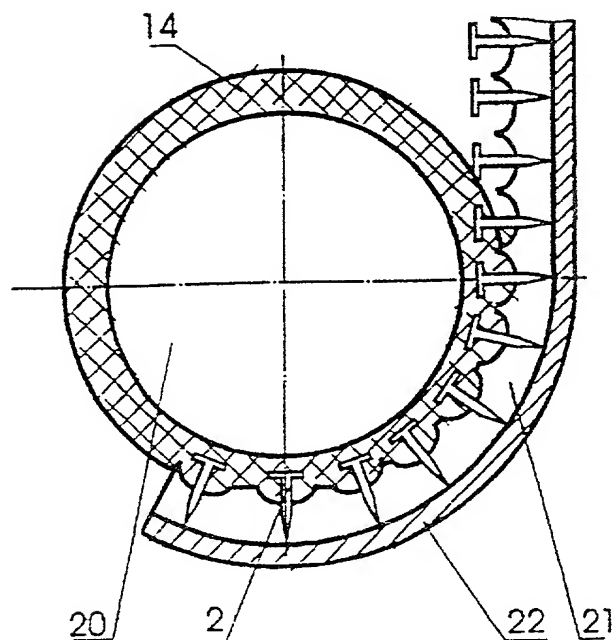
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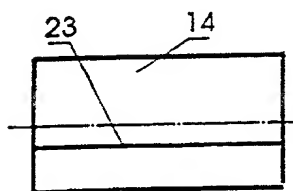
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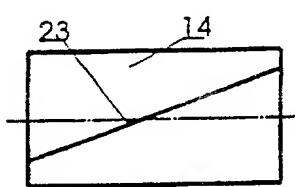
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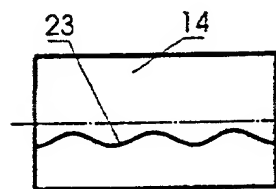
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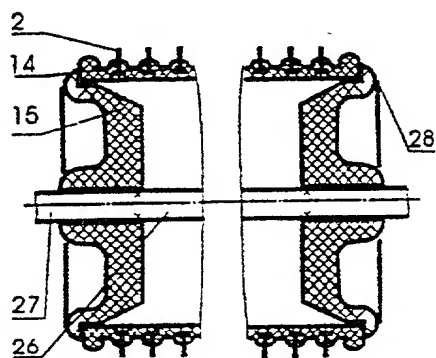
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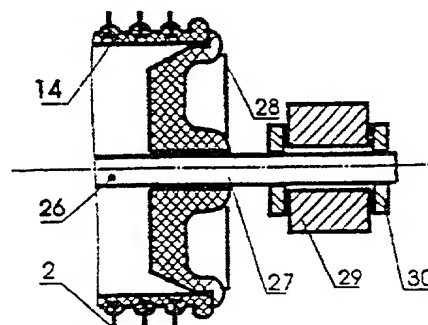
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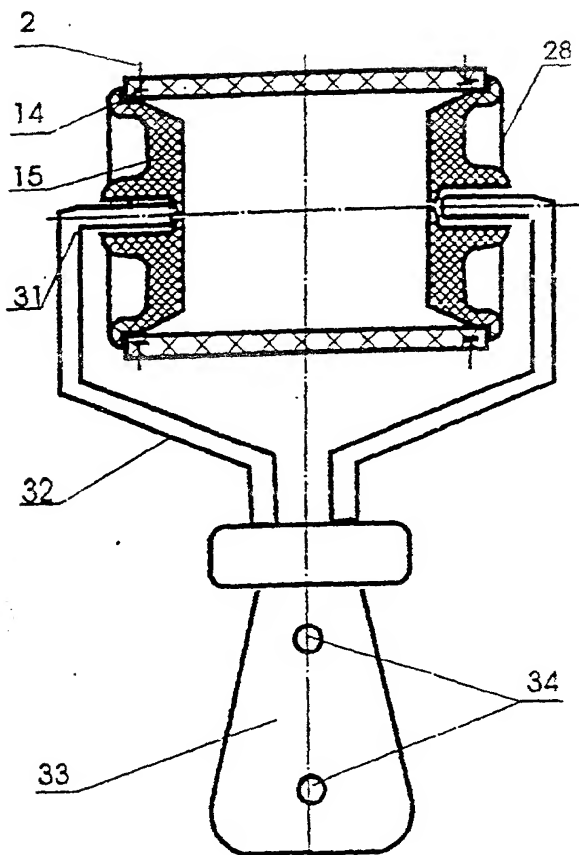
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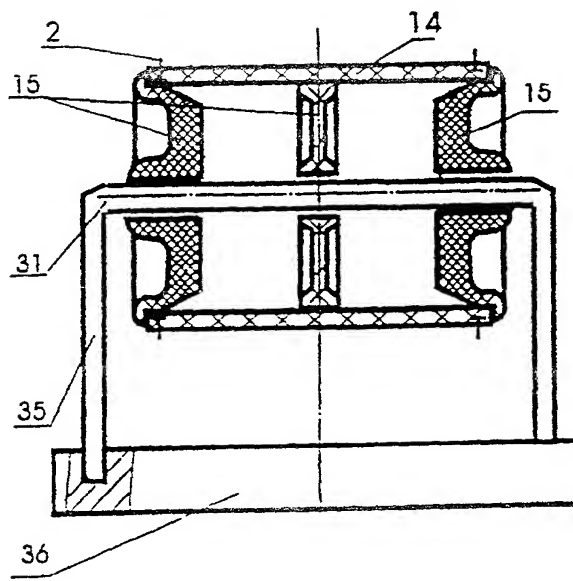
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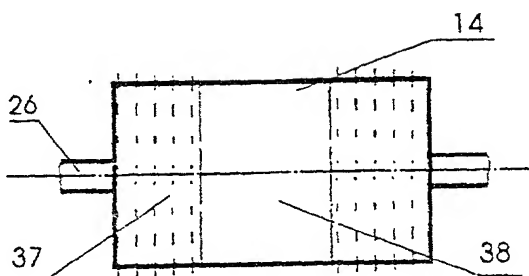
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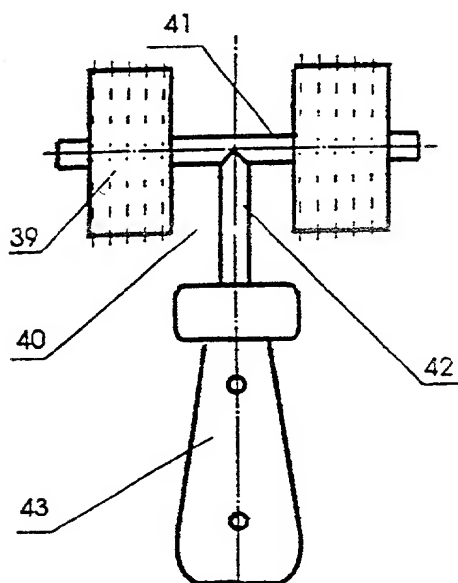
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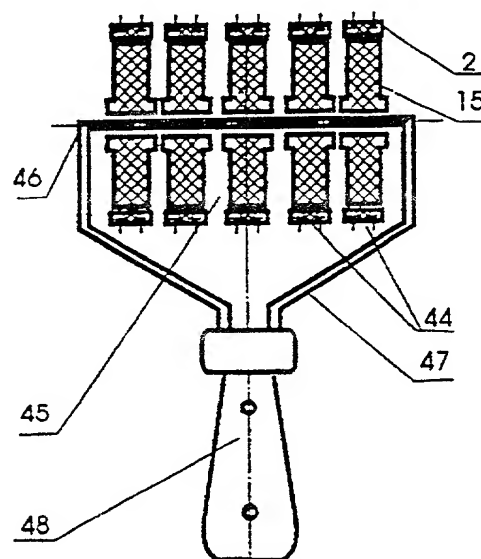
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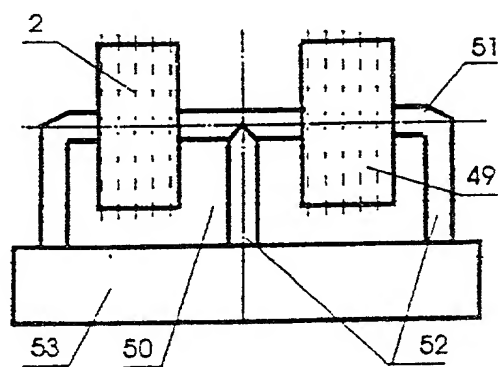
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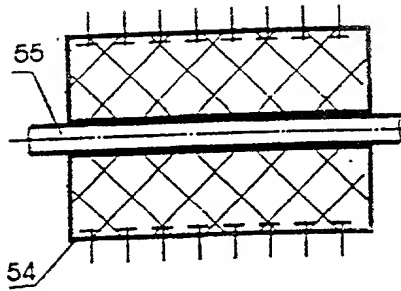
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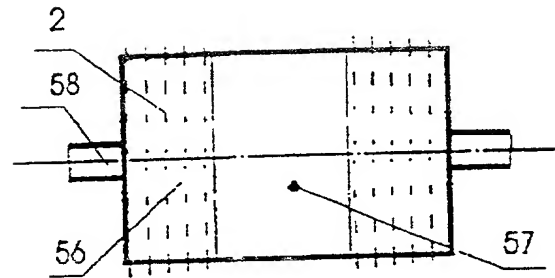
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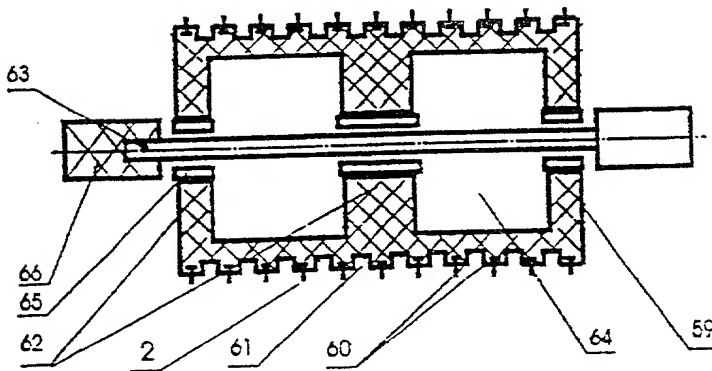
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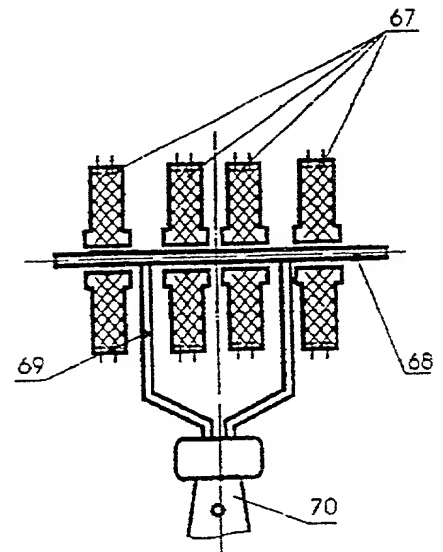
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Фиг. 23

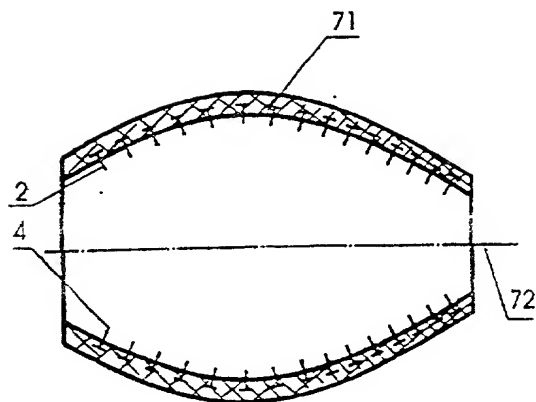


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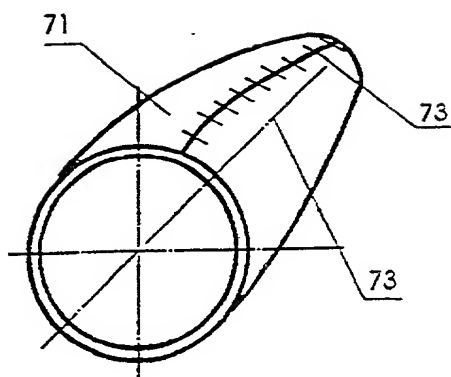


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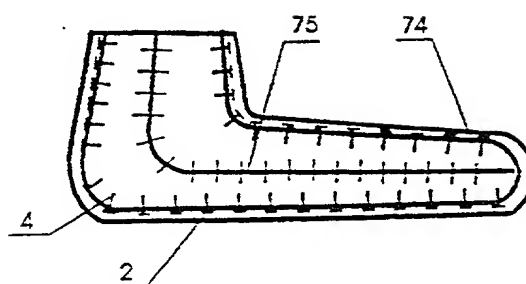
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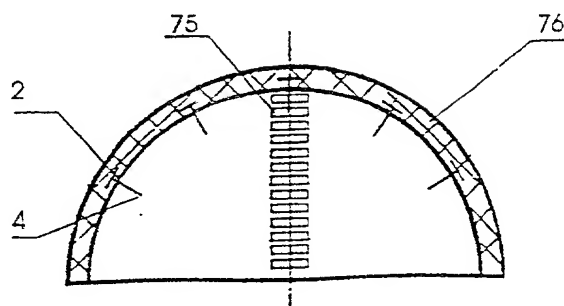
Фиг. 26



Фиг. 27



Фиг. 28



Фиг. 29

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled APPLICATOR FOR USE IN REFLEXOTHERAPY as disclosed in U.S. Patent Application 10/031,161 filed January 15, 2002.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56, and which is material to the examination of this application, namely, information where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed.

Ukrainian Patent Application 99074081 filed July 15, 1999; and
International Application PCT/UA00/00022 filed July 13, 2000

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

NONE

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

NONE

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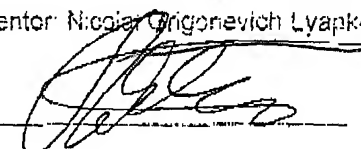
POWER OF ATTORNEY: As the named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith Irving M. Weiner Reg. No. 22,166; and Pamela S. Burt, Reg. No. 27,861.

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Harrisville, MI 48740.

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: Irving M. Weiner, (989) 724-7400

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole inventor: Niccolò Grigorievich Lyapko

Inventor's signature: 

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